

What Supt. Should Know About Women's Use of A Course

By MRS. GRACE GRAHAM

THERE are primarily three qualifications by which women judge a golf course: its appearance; its adaptability to play; and its conformity to uniform standards necessary for organized competition. The degree of importance of these qualifications varies with the individual taste of the golfer. For the rather casual player who quickly makes her shot so as not to interfere with a running conversation, the beauty of surroundings and the companionship of players is most important. But for the more businesslike golfer who is concerned with improving her game, the conveniences and conditioning of the course take precedence and for the hard-bitten competitor, and there are many of us, all courses must be clearly defined and afford favorable playing conditions.

Perhaps instinctively we use our own home as a criterion in judging a course. We like it to be attractive and well furnished with trees, flowers and shrubs and carpeted with beautiful grass. As for grass, most of us, myself included, do not know the difference between bent and blue.

Details that Women Approve

We women are well aware of our reputation for being considered fuss-budgets.

While the pursuit of that little white ball may make us somewhat oblivious to the beauty of our course, it also makes us fully aware of the playing conditions. Here again we have a list of suggestions or perhaps more accurately, I should say, endorsements for most of our objectives are a routine part of the maintenance program.

We like good turf and level ground within the teeing area and the markers placed squarely to the desired line of flight. We are pleased with clean towels and fresh solution in the ball washer but,

This article is condensed from remarks made by Mrs. Graham at the spring conference of the Minnesota GCSA.

oh, how we wish the benches and ball washers could be placed more conveniently to our area of the tee. On the fairways, we like the grass cut short and to provide a nice cushion for the ball. Sandtraps should be well filled with loose sand and free of pebbles and debris and a rake furnished. We like a nice smooth apron around the greens and the greens themselves we like soft enough to hold a well executed approach shot and not quite slippery fast and, please, the hole cups at least one inch below the surface.

In the rough, we expect to be properly penalized in the selection of clubs but not always to the extent of a lost ball. We ask that service roads be playable, for under the rules we are not allowed to lift without penalty. Shelter houses, properly constructed, should be provided for protection against lightning; restrooms and drinking fountains are additional conveniences much to our liking. I think I have covered every inch of a course except the water hazards and what is there to do about them but just try to get across?

I would like to know, however, if those who describe us in this way have ever played organized competitive golf and understand its involvements. This phase of the game is vastly different from joining up with a pal for a friendly round, but once entangled in this more challenging type of golf we are never quite content with anything less.

Organization and planning are accented in women's golf. Perhaps by describing our program I can better explain our requirements in preparing a course for competition.

Women's Program Outlined

The smallest unit of organization is, of course at the club level. It is here that we first play the game and try to improve our skill. If we are at all typical, we are members of an organized group and participate in the Ladies' Day events.

Through careful planning by an elected committee we are offered throughout the



Northwestern Ohio GCSA members recently were guests of Earl Crane, Inc., power equipment distributor, Tiffin, O. at a field day and demonstration held in Tiffin. Attending were (l to r): Ray Pecaut, George Rochefort, Wilburt Waters, Alva Newell, Earl J. Crane, Charles Jarman, Charles Letterhos, B. Bingman, Robert Thayer, Ben Miller, William Salyers, Neil Fairchild, Clifford Swigart and Joe Kuhn.

playing season a challenging and interesting golf program with all events arranged and conducted in strict conformity with the rules of golf.

Almost before we know the difference between a 5-iron and a putter we are playing in competition and learning the rules and etiquette of the game and a respect for the course on which we play.

It is at this time we become aware of handicapping, a very important factor in women's golf, and learn that scores to truly reflect our scoring abilities must have been made in accordance with the rules.

Nearly all courses in Minnesota have a women's group and set aside at least one day a week (some as many as three) for Ladies' day. The groups may range in size from as small as 15 on up to well over 300 but their golf programs are almost identical. One of the highlights of our season is Guest Day. If we ever want our course manicured and polished this is the day for its is under the closest scrutiny

Course for Women's Competition

For the large majority, competition ends at the state level but the more outstanding players do enter the regional and national tournaments. Just last year, Darlene Anderson, winner of the Minnesota Junior tournament was sent by the Women's Public Links Golf Assn. to the National Junior tournament.

To prepare a course for competition every area must be clearly defined so the player may know the status of her ball at

all times. Local rules established for abnormal conditions should conform to the rules of golf and signs authorizing play at variance with the rules should never be permitted.

Ladies' tee markers should be identical on all holes. The tees should be clearly numbered.

Water hazards and lateral water hazards should be clearly defined and their margins carefully delineated. USGA recommends stakes for this purpose but when this is not practical the players should be informed by other means, perhaps on the back of the scorecard or a permanent notice in the golf shop. If stakes are used, they should be small enough for easy removal because a player is permitted to lift them to play the ball. Use yellow stakes for regular water hazards and red stakes for lateral water hazards.

Out of bounds should be clearly defined, if by stakes they should be of a permanent nature, firmly fixed and protruding 2 to 3 feet from the ground and should be placed close enough together to enable drawing a sight from one to the next. A player is not permitted to lift an out of bounds stake to execute a shot.

Ground under repair should be clearly marked and its limits delineated and you might like to include turf nurseries as permanent ground under repair.

Trees are normally a part of the course and a player should not be allowed relief from them. To protect saplings certain ex-

(Continued on page 78)

BOOK REVIEW

NEW ANGLES ON PUTTING AND CHIP SHOTS by Robert Cromie. Reilly & Lee Co., Chicago, publishers. Price \$2.50.

This is an adept and sound modernization of a couple classics, now out of print, on the Mark G. Harris method of the short game.

Bob Cromie, book editor of the Chicago Tribune, formerly of its sports staff, an intense student of the game, a clear writer and one of the foremost golf book collectors, brought the Harris book up to the minute in text and illustration. Cromie



Bob Cromie (r) discusses his new book with a pair of golf fans in a Chicago bookstore.

made it a "must" text book for the golfer who wants to make his putting better.

The late Mark G. Harris, a prominent men's clothing designer and tailor, was forced by ill health to retire from business in the early 1930's. He was about 65 years old then. In that era, before the present tremendous activity in Senior golf was even imagined, he stoutly maintained, after he watched golfers on a practice green, that older men could putt and chip as well as younger stars. His statement was ridiculed by golfing friends so he took up the short game, figured out some basic geometry and yip-proof physiology and psychology and became an astonishing short-game player.

Although ably instructed by the late Bob Macdonald and assiduous at practice, Harris couldn't hit a wood or an iron much more than 150 yards due to physical handicaps. But within 50 yards of the pin he would get down in 2, two times out of three. He made a movie short that was so good it was hard to believe.

The great putters of today and yesterday confirm the Harris findings. Lloyd Mangrum writes the foreword to Cromie's excellent revision of the Harris standard.

Helen MacDonal, prominent teaching professional, tells of phenomenal performances that exhibited the Harris mastery of the short game. The book is very helpfully illustrated.

Women's View of the Course

(Continued from page 43)

ceptions are made by cultivating around them and posting a sign permitting players to lift without penalty. These areas should be filled in and the local rule rescinded as soon as growth of the tree makes it feasible.

Obstructions, too, should be clearly defined. These are just some of the more basic requirements in preparing a course for competition and many tournaments are won or lost by their proper application.

When Women and Course Work Clash

I imagine right now most of you are saying a little prayer that no woman will ever be placed in a position of authority at your course but it might not be too bad. For one thing, on weekdays you wouldn't have to come to work until about one o'clock at which time we are through playing.

While we are quite willing to offer suggestions for the grooming and maintenance of a golf course we would be most reluctant to sacrifice any playing privileges in order to facilitate their accomplishment. A course, though perfect in each detail, is of little value unless it is available for play. Justifiable or not, I believe this quite accurately reflects our attitude, especially concerning our Ladies' Day.

Perhaps on other days even we concede your work program must take precedence. However, there is a definite need for better communication between the women players and their superintendent. You should be fully informed of the women's golf schedule, especially Guest days and other out of the ordinary events.

When you have some extensive maintenance problem an explanation to the Women's Golf chairman would promote excellent relations and she in turn could explain your position to the members.

If, when women have arranged an event, conditions dictate protecting the course from play, call the chmn. early in the morning (she'll be up) and through her telephone committee she can notify all the players. In areas where you are doing extensive work, for instance, repairing a pipe line, if you properly designated it ground under repair, both workers and players would benefit.

There are many rules directly associated with your work and numerous changes have been made this year so I would like to recommend that you have reference to a Rules of Golf book. There are two other pamphlets I think you would find helpful; one is the Conduct of Women's Golf and the other is the USGA bulletin on preparing a course for competition.

One final word, all the Minnesota Women's Golf Assn. (private) courses have now been rated to comply with the USGA handicapping system.

Nothing Like A New Shop

(Continued from page 32)

quite transparent, is very effective, probably because the ego of a golfer is the easiest in the world to inflate.

Schacht, who in spite of his relaxed manner and the relaxed shop he operates has an ulcer, uses a favorite catch line in dealing with persons who are wavering between top quality and medium price merchandise. It is simply: "Why shouldn't you have the best clubs? You drive a Cadillac, don't you?" It seems that there are enough members at Ridge in the Cadillac class to make these queries salesworthy.

Plenty of Activity

To return to the neighborhood theme and the great amount of golfing activity that goes on at Ridge throughout the season: Because there are so many persons who live within roughly No. 1 wood distance of the club, there is perhaps as much twilight golf played at the Ridge course as anywhere in the Chicago district. There's also great emphasis on husband and wife competition and because of their proximity to the club, the women descend on it to put in a great deal more playing time than the customary Ladies Day calls for.

Through the efforts of Joe Para, Ridge's sports and pastime chmn., with whom Elmer Schacht closely cooperates, there is, in fact, something going on in a golfing way at the club all the time. The entire season's schedule is planned well in advance of May 1st and it is printed in booklet form for distribution to all players. A perusal of it shows that there are very few open dates during the May-September period. When there isn't a man or women's club or interclub tournament going on, you can bet there's a fish derby, driving contest, sweepstakes or some other equally interesting event to fill in.

Hit 1 or hit 100...

SWEET SHOT GIVES YOU THE LONG BALL, CONSISTENTLY!

Some golfers get greatest distance with a high compression ball—others with a lower compression golf ball. That's why Worthington makes **Sweet Shots** in different compressions—so you can recommend the one that best matches each golfer's swing. "Big hitters" need a harder ball, like the **Sweet Shot 100**; smooth swingers do best with a lower compression ball, like the **90**.

And once you have helped a golfer select **the Sweet Shot** for him, you can be sure that he'll get his longest drives *consistently*. Precision dyna-tension winding, plus individual compression-testing, assures you that every **Sweet Shot** you sell is the same compression as the last.

Recommend the *long* ball for 1960—the **Sweet Shot**. Use it yourself, and hit for distance, consistently!
SOLD ONLY IN PRO SHOPS.

Worthington
ELYRIA, OHIO

